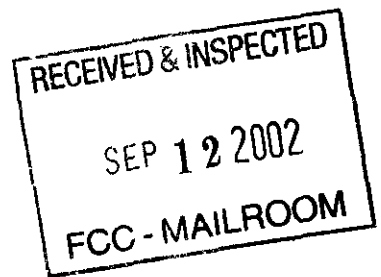




State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission

4325 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4325



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September 4, 2002

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th Street, S.W.
Room TW-204B
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket 96-45
Certification Under 47 U.S.C. 254(e)
(NCUC Docket No. P-100, Sub 133L)

Dear Secretary Dortch:

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) hereby submits its certification in accordance with 47 C.F.R. 54.313. This section of the Commission's rules requires state certification in order to allow non-rural service areas, to receive federal high-cost support pursuant to 47 C.F.R. 54.309 or 54.311.

As required by 47 C.F.R. 54.313(b), the NCUC certifies that North State Telephone Company and Verizon South Inc., f/k/a GTE South Incorporated are eligible to receive "hold harmless" federal support during the period of January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. The NCUC further certifies that these Companies will use such federal support only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of the facilities and services for which the support is intended.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo Anne Sanford".

Jo Anne Sanford, Chair
North Carolina Utilities Commission

cc: Office of Administrator
Universal Service Administrative Company
100 South Jefferson Street
Whippany, New Jersey 07981

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